

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 PCH-02 SES-02
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L-03 H-02 PA-02 HA-05 ACDA-12 SIG-03 SSO-00
INRE-00 /116 R

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O 142328Z AUG 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
USMISSION SINAI
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
USINT BAGHDAD
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AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
DOD
JCS WASHDC 0000
CIA WASHDC 0000
USICA
NSC WASHDC 0000

USCINCUEUR VAIHINGEN GE
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS POUCH

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CINCEUR FOR POLAD, TEL AVIV FOR PAO, DELIVER BY 9 A.M.

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:SOPN

SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S Q'S AND A'S WITH PRESS

1. FOLLOWING IS AN UNOFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT OF THE SECRETARY'S Q'S AND A'S FOLLOWING HIS MEETING WITH THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE (CLOSED SESSION) ON AUGUST 14, 1978.

SECRETARY VANCE: LET ME JUST SAY A WORD IF I MIGHT. I HAD A VERY GOOD OPPORTUNITY THIS MORNING TO CONSULT WITH THE MEMBERS OF THE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE ON MY RECENT TRIP TO THE MIDDLE EAST AND OUR PREPARATIONS FOR THE SUMMIT WHICH WILL BE STARTING ON SEPTEMBER 5 AT CAMP DAVID. I BELIEVE VERY STRONGLY THAT IT'S IMPORTANT THAT WE DO NOT ENGAGE IN EXTENSIVE SPECULATION ABOUT WHAT WILL OR WILL NOT COME OUT OF THE SUMMIT. AS I'VE SAID PREVIOUSLY, THE
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PRESIDENT HAS SAID, WE ARE GRATIFIED AT THE PROMPT AND ENTHUSIASTIC RESPONSE OF PRIME MINISTER BEGIN AND PRESIDENT SADAT TO MEET AT CAMP DAVID. WE SHALL BE DEVOTING OUR FULL EFFORTS BETWEEN NOW AND THEN TO THE PREPARATIONS FOR THOSE IMPORTANT MEETINGS.

QUESTION: NOW THAT THE PRESIDENT HAS BROKEN HIS SILENCE, WHAT CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT A PROPOSED AMERICAN PEACE PLAN? HOW FAR WILL THE UNITED STATES GO?

SECRETARY VANCE: I HAVE, I THINK SAID HERE LAST TIME THAT I TESTIFIED BEFORE THE COMMITTEE, THAT THE UNITED STATES DOES NOT HAVE IN MIND A PEACE PLAN. I HAVE SAID, HOWEVER, THAT DURING THE COURSE OF DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN THE TWO HEADS OF GOVERNMENT THAT WHERE THEY RUN INTO OBSTACLES, WE'LL FEEL OURSELVES FREE TO MAKE SUGGESTIONS WHICH WE THINK WOULD BE CONSTRUCTIVE IN HELPING OVERCOME THOSE OBSTACLES.

QUESTION: CAN YOU GIVE US ANYTHING SPECIFIC ABOUT THOSE SUGGESTIONS?

SECRETARY VANCE: NO.

QUESTION: MR. SECRETARY, ONE GETS THE IMPRESSION LISTENING TO THE ADMINISTRATION SPEAK, THAT YOU'RE POOR-MOUTHING THE PROSPECTS FOR PEACE OR SOME SORT OF PROGRESS BEING MADE AT THAT SUMMIT CONFERENCE, WHEN INDEED THE PROSPECTS ARE BETTER THAN YOU'D BE WILLING TO ADMIT PUBLICLY. IS THAT THE CASE?

SECRETARY VANCE: NO. I THINK THAT WE SIMPLY DO NOT KNOW WHAT WILL BE COMING OUT OF THE MEETING. WE ARE ENCOURAGED, AS I SAY, BY THE ENTHUSIASM WITH RESPECT TO THE ACCEPTANCE OF THE INVITATION, WE HOPE THAT PROGRESS WILL BE MADE. BUT I THINK IT WOULD BE UNWISE FOR US TO TRY AND SPECULATE ON WHAT WILL COME OUT OF THOSE MEETINGS.

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QUESTION: IF PROGRESS IS NOT MADE, AND IF THIS DOESN'T GROW, WILL THE SADAT PEACE EFFORT, THAT BEGAN A WHILE AGO, HAVE FAILED?

SECRETARY VANCE: I DON'T WANT TO SPECULATE ABOUT THAT. WE'LL JUST HAVE TO WAIT AND SEE WHAT HAPPENS.

QUESTION: WOULD YOU COMMENT ON THOSE WEST BANK SETTLEMENTS?

SECRETARY VANCE: YES, I WOULD BE GLAD TO DISCUSS THE WEST BANK SETTLEMENTS THAT WERE REPORTED IN THE PAPER TODAY. I WOULD POINT OUT THAT THE ISRAELI CABINET HAS INDICATED THAT THERE HAS BEEN NO FINAL DECISION WITH RESPECT TO THE RUMORED PLAN OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF FIVE NEW SETTLEMENTS ON THE WEST BANK. THEY INDICATED THIS MORNING THAT NO DECISION WOULD BE TAKEN WITH RESPECT TO SUCH AN ISSUE UNTIL AFTER THE SUMMIT AT CAMP DAVID. WE HAVE BEEN IN COMMUNICATION WITH THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT ON THIS MATTER.

QUESTION: PRESIDENT CARTER IS SAID TO HAVE EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF A MILITARY BUILD-UP BY THE EGYPTIANS PRIOR TO THE FULL SUMMIT INITIATIVE, AND IN THE

REPORTS THIS MORNING, PRESIDENT SADAT ASKED YOU TO RELATE TO THE ISRAELIS THAT THERE WOULD BE NO MILITARY MOVES. CAN YOU TELL US ANYTHING ABOUT THE SUBJECT OF THE EGYPTIAN MILITARY BUILDUP?

SECRETARY VANCE: I DON'T WANT TO GO INTO MY PRIVATE DISCUSSIONS WITH EITHER PRESIDENT SADAT OR PRIME MINISTER BEGIN. THOSE ARE CONVERSATIONS WHICH I CARRIED OUT WITH THEM, RESPECTING THEIR CONFIDENCE, I THINK IT WOULD BE INAPPROPRIATE FOR ME TO DISCUSS THEM.

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QUESTION: ON THE SETTLEMENTS, DID THAT COMMITTEE ACTION HURT THE PEACE PROCESS? THE ORIGINAL ACTION.

SECRETARY VANCE: YOU KNOW OUR POSITION WITH RESPECT TO THE QUESTION OF SETTLEMENTS. IT REMAINS UNCHANGED BUT NO DECISION HAS BEEN TAKEN ON THAT POLICY.

QUESTION: MR. SECRETARY, CAN YOU TELL US SOMETHING ABOUT THE PREPARATIONS THAT YOU ARE GOING TO MAKE BEFORE THE SUMMIT MEETING TAKES PLACE?

SECRETARY VANCE: LET ME SAY ONLY THAT IT TAKES AN AWFUL LOT OF HARD WORK WHICH IS WELL UNDERWAY AND WHICH WILL CONTINUE STEADILY BETWEEN NOW AND THEN.

QUESTION: ARE YOU GOING TO GO TO THE MIDDLE EAST OR SEND SOMEONE TO THE MIDDLE EAST BEFORE THE....?

SECRETARY VANCE: NO, I'M NOT.

QUESTION: WHAT ABOUT THE TRIP TO VIRGINIA, MR. SECRETARY?

SECRETARY VANCE: YES, I'M GOING DOWN THIS AFTERNOON WITH TWO OR THREE OF MY COLLEAGUES TO GO OVER THE PREPARATIONS FOR THE CAMP DAVID MEETING, TO REVIEW WHAT WE HAVE BEEN WORKING ON AND HAVE PREPARED, AND I WOULD HOPE BY THE END OF THE WEEK THAT WE WILL HAVE OUR WORK COMPLETED ON THAT SO WE CAN DISCUSS IT WITH THE PRESIDENT BEFORE HE GOES OFF FOR HIS HOLIDAY.

QUESTION: MR. SECRETARY, WILL YOU BE BACK TOMORROW?

SECRETARY VANCE: YES, I'LL BE BACK TOMORROW AFTERNOON.

(QUESTION ABOUT BRIEFINGS OF MIDDLE EAST PRINCIPLES BE-
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SIDES SADAT AND BEGIN ABOUT CAMP DAVID INVITATION.)

SECRETARY VANCE: THE LETTER TO THE TWO INDIVIDUALS DID NOT GO TO ANYBODY OTHER THAN THE TWO. I WANT TO MAKE THAT VERY CLEAR. THE OTHER TWO WERE INFORMED.

QUESTION: AND THE RECEPTION OF JORDAN AND SAUDI ARABIA

TO THE SUMMIT?

SECRETARY VANCE: BOTH JORDAN AND SAUDI ARABIA HAVE GIVEN THEIR BLESSING TO THE SUMMIT. WE ARE VERY PLEASED TO SEE THEIR ENTHUSIASTIC SUPPORT OF THE SUMMIT.

QUESTION: WAS THERE IN FACT AN EGYPTIAN MILITARY BUILDUP IMMEDIATELY PRIOR TO THE INVITATION OR ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE SUMMIT?

SECRETARY VANCE: NO THERE WAS NOT.

QUESTION: YOU TOLD US OF THE ISRAELI CABINET DECISION TODAY ON THE WEST BANK SETTLEMENTS. ARE YOU SATISFIED WITH ITS DEFERRAL?

SECRETARY VANCE: OUR POSITION IS CLEAR WITH RESPECT TO THAT QUESTION, WE BELIEVE(INAUDIBLE). CHRISTOPHER

NOTE BY OC/T: POUCHED ALGIERS.

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